

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

S E C R E T STATE 005356

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, UR, JA, PARM

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS

1. JAPANESE MINISTER NISHIDA CALLED ON ACDA DEPUTY
DIRECTOR ZURHELLEN JANUARY 6, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM TOKYO, TO
ASK FOLLOWING QUESTIONS CONCERNING FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN
PROJECTED NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE:

- (A) WHAT WAS FRENCH RESPONSE TO US CONFERENCE PROPOSAL?
- (B) HAD IT BEEN DISCUSSED AT MARTINIQUE?
- (C) IF FRENCH DO NOT PARTICIPATE, ARE THEY LIKELY TO
ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH CONFERENCE DECISIONS IN
SOME WAY?

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2. IN RESPONSE ZURHELLEN SAID SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT MARTINIQUE, AND THAT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN US AND FRANCE. PENDING OUTCOME SUCH CONSULTATIONS, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME TO GIVE MORE DETAILED OR CONCLUSIVE ANSWER TO JAPANESE QUESTIONS. HE ASKED WHETHER JAPANESE THEMSELVES HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH FRENCH. NISHIDA IMPLIED THAT THEY HAD AND SAID IT WAS THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT FRENCH HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE.

3. ZURHELLEN THEN ASKED ABOUT JAPANESE ATTITUDE TOWARD CONFERENCE, RECALLING THAT JAPANESE EMBOFFS HAD EARLIER SAID JAPANESE DELAY IN RESPONDING TO OUR INVITATION WAS DUE TO CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT TAKING PLACE AT THAT TIME. HOWEVER, THAT WAS TWO MONTHS AGO. NISHIDA SAID THAT GOJ STILL HAD QUESTION UNDER SERIOUS STUDY AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT ATTITUDE WAS ON BALANCE FAVORABLE. ZURHELLEN WONDERED WHETHER THE JAPANESE WERE WAITING TO HEAR WHAT THE FRENCH WERE GOING TO DO BEFORE MAKING THEIR OWN DECISION. NISHIDA SAID HE COULD NOT SAY, BUT POINTED OUT THAT HIS CALL WAS PROMPTED BY STRONG JAPANESE CONCERN ON THIS POINT. ZUEHELLEN SAID WE FULLY RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF FRENCH COOPERATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT AGREEMENT BY ALL OF THE OTHER MAJOR SUPPLIERS TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE WOULD HELP TO BRING THIS ABOUT. KISSINGER

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